(b) and (c) Annual Plan 1992-93 including expenditure position was recently reviewed and certain amount of fiscal shortfall in some sectors like Transport, Power and Communication was noted. Efforts at Mobilisation of additional resources are a continuous process during a Plan period.

Non-availability of States' cost of living indices

3615. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission does not have appropriate State-specific cost of living indices to enable it to make accurate estimates of poverty;

(b) what steps are proposed to obtain such data from every State; and

(c) what are the reasons for non availability of such data?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) State-specific cost of living indices are compiled for different groups of pupulation by different government agencies, viz., Labour Bureau compile Consumer Price Index Numbers for Agricultural Labourers and Industrial Workers and Central Statistical Organisation compile Consumer Price Index Numbers for Urban Non-Manual Employees covering major states. The methodology of estimating state-wise poverty is, so far, based on the use of an All-India poverty line for all the tates which is updated on the basis of national level index of price movement.

Redefining of poverty line

3616. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Planning Commission to re-define "poverty line";

(b) if so, the details of proposals and suggestions under consideration;

(c) whether the Planning Commission's existing method of defining the poverty line has come in for criticism; and

(d) what are the details of such criticism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (d) The Planning Commission had constituted an Expert Group to look into the methodology of estimating poverty at national and state levels and also to go into the question of redefining poverty, if necessary. The Group has review the existing methodology of estimating poverty in respect of:

(i) The procedure of adjustment of consumption expenditure date produced by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

(ii) Choice of deflators to represent priec changes, and

(iii) Choice of consumption basket over time and across States.

The Expert Group has recommended revisions in methodology after making a detailed study of data on consumption expenditure, price changes, price differentials acrors the States and consumption pattern of the poor. The Expert Group has also suggested an indepth study relating poverty to living standards and employment as well as free social services provided by the Government.